

Bache family papers, 1770-1890
(bulk), 1770-1923 (inclusive)
(Bulk, 1770-1890) 1770-1923 (Bulk 1770-1890)
Mss.B.B121

American Philosophical Society
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Summary Information

Repository	American Philosophical Society
Title	Bache family papers, 1770-1890 (bulk), 1770-1923 (inclusive)
Date [bulk]	Bulk, 1770-1890
Date [inclusive]	1770-1923 (Bulk 1770-1890)
Call number	Mss.B.B121
Extent	50.0 Item(s)
Extent	50 items.
Location	LH-MV-C-1
Language	English
Container	1
Abstract	The family correspondence of Richard and Sarah Franklin Bache on a variety of topics including references to Benjamin Franklin and his estate. There is also a family genealogy.

Administrative Information

Publication Information

American Philosophical Society

Provenance

Acquisition Information

Accessioned 4/--/1938. See in-house shelf list for accession numbers and dates.

Indexing Terms

Genre(s)

- Family Correspondence
- Genealogies.
- General Correspondence
- Legal Records
- Miscellaneous
- Wills.

Geographic Name(s)

- Philadelphia (Pa.) -- Social life and customs.
- United States - Armed Forces - Medical care
- United States - Armed Forces - Medical personnel
- United States - History - 1783-1865
- United States - History - Colonial period, ca. 1600-1775
- United States - History - Revolution - 1775-1783 - Personal narratives

Occupation(s)

- Journalists -- Pennsylvania.
- Physicians -- Pennsylvania.

Personal Name(s)

- Franklin, Benjamin, 1706-1790

Subject(s)

- Law
- Marriage and Family Life
- Printing and Publishing
- Women's History

Other Descriptive Information

The Bache Family collection contains a range of letters from members of the extended Franklin-Bache family, descendants of Benjamin Franklin. Although the vast majority are from the early republic, there are some papers from the twentieth century that involve Franklin's legacy (the collection appears to have been acquired by the APS in 1938). Among the correspondence included are letters to and from Benjamin Franklin Bache, William Temple Franklin, Sarah Franklin Bache, Richard Bache, William Bache and Catherine Wistar Bache.

The papers reflect miscellaneous correspondence to and from this very prominent and important American family. Many of the letters are personal in nature and involve correspondence amongst members of the extended family about their lives. There are other significant collections of such correspondence in the papers of William Temple Franklin, Sarah Franklin Bache, and Benjamin Bache Franklin at the APS. Nonetheless, this miscellaneous collection does provide a portrait of family relations in the early national period for both those within the extended Bache family and for those writing to the Bache's about their own family affairs. The collection has a notable number of women letter writers who often relate their daily life and family affairs.

A letter from Richard, one of the Benjamin Franklin Bache's sons, to his mother Sarah captures the intimacy of many of these letters. The long letter recounts a game the children played with the children of family friends. The game involved sticking needles into a burning candlestick at midnight to find out who one's future spouse would be. When the children did it, one of the older children came into the room wearing a sheet to look like a ghost and frightened the younger children. Among the more interesting items is a letter from William Franklin to his sister Sarah Franklin Bache in 1794. Although Benjamin Franklin disowned his son, the two siblings kept in contact, as evidenced by this correspondence. The collection also contains a significant portion of correspondence from the 1830s and 1840s from less prominent members of the Bache family writing about their lives.

There are scattered documents from the late-nineteenth century and early twentieth century. Of particular note are a series of letters discussing the family's attempt to take control of Benjamin Franklin's Trust that he had left to Boston and Philadelphia for charity. Around 1890, some of Franklin descendants tried to reclaim approximately \$450,000 Franklin left to charity, and these documents consist of the family's organizing efforts and legal strategies. The collection also contains the wills of Richard and Benjamin Franklin Bache and two genealogical collections from the 1870s that trace out the descendants of Sarah Franklin Bache.

A note on the correspondents: Richard Bache, an immigrant from England who had worked as a merchant in New York and then Philadelphia, married Franklin's daughter Sarah (Sally). Benjamin Franklin was at first displeased with the marriage, but eventually accepted it. The Bache's had a number of children. Benjamin Franklin Bache, their first child, became a favorite of Franklin's, and he traveled to Europe with Franklin during the American Revolution.

Richard Bache served in a number of prominent organizations during his time in Philadelphia, including postmaster general during the American Revolution. He went into business with the Shippens and Willings, served on Revolutionary committees, and was a Director at the Bank of North America.

Sarah Franklin Bache, called Sally, was a politically active Philadelphian who supported the American Revolution by serving in voluntary associations and later supported the Democratic-Republicans, advising her son Benjamin Franklin Bache on political matters. She was also a close confidante of her father. The family lived with him and assisted him in his old age. The Bache's had eight children, among them Benjamin Franklin Bache and William Bache (a doctor who married Catherine Wistar), all of whom have letters in this collection.

William Temple Franklin was the illegitimate son of Franklin's illegitimate – and eventually disowned – son, William Franklin. William Temple, like Benjamin Franklin Bache, traveled to France with his grandfather. William, however, played a far more important role while there. While Benjamin Franklin Bache was just a child at the time, William Temple served as Franklin's aide and was eventually appointed Secretary to the America delegation at the Treaty of Versailles. He later published Franklin's papers, which were given to him as part of his inheritance.

Papers

Collection Inventory

Papers

Hewson, M. S. (Mary Stevenson)	Aug. 25, 1770	9x7-1/2
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B B121 Letter to Mrs. [Sarah Franklin]
Bache, Philadelphia;

A.L.S. 2p.and add. Friendly letter. Concerning B.Franklin. Previously cataloged as B B121.2 no.1

Hewson, M. S. (Mary Stevenson)	Aug. 16, 1771	9x7-1/4
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B B121 Letter to [Mrs. Sarah Franklin
Bache];

London, A.L.S. 2p. Birth of William Hewson. Refers to B.Franklin. Previously cataloged as B B121.2 no.2

Bache, Richard, 1737-1811	Jan. 15, 1782	9 1/2" x 7 3/4"
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B B121 Letter to Gov. Livingston, Trenton;

Phila., A.L.S. 1p. and add. Has ordered the post round the mountain by Veal Town, thus evading Clinton's party. Birth of the Dauphin. Previously cataloged as B B121.1

Franklin, William Temple, 1760-1823	April 12, 1783	6 1/2" x 8 1/4"
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B B121 Letter to Mrs. [Sarah] Bache;

Passy, A.L.S. 1p. and add. Seal. Introduces the bearer, Mr. Mason.

Montgomery, Dorcas?	July 26, 1783	9x7-1/4
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B B121 Letter to Mrs. [Sarah Franklin]
Bache;

Paris, A.L.S.with initials. 3p.and add. ----Photostat of c.of L. 2p. On same sheet is letter from C. Greene to [S.Bache]; Aug.20,1785. (from Yale university library, in Miscellaneous manuscript collection:Film 54-65 Frame 87.) Previously cataloged as B B121.2 no.3

Bache, Benjamin Franklin, 1769-1798	Dec. 27, 1783	7 1/4" x 9"
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Papers

B B121 Letter to William Bache;

Passy, A.L.S. 1p. and add. His last letter contained a long description of the air balloons.

Bache, Theophylact, 1735-1807

April 7, 1790

6 1/2" x 8

B B121 Letter to William Bache;

1/4"

New York, A.L.S. 1p. and add. Family news; hopes his grandfather [B. Franklin] is free from pain.

Redick, David

May 31, 1790

9x7-3/4

B B121 Letter to [Mrs.] Richard Beach
[Sarah Franklin Bache], Philadelphia;

Washington, A.L.S. 1p. and add. Condolences for death of B. Franklin. Previously cataloged as B B121.2 no.4

Markoe, Peter, 1752?-1792

Nov. 17, 1791

10x8-1/4

B B121 Letter to Mrs. Sarah [Franklin]
Bache, Philadelphia;

St. Croix, A.L.S. 2P. and add. Friendly letter. Previously cataloged as B B121.2 no.5

Hosack, Mrs. Mary Eddy

Oct. 1, 1793

9-1/2x7-3/4

B B121 Letter to [Mrs.] Catharine Wistar
[Bache], Philadelphia;

New York, A.L.S. with initials. 2p. and add., end. Friendly letter. Concerning yellow fever in Philadelphia. Previously cataloged as B B121.2 no.6

Markoe, Fr

June 28, 1794

9-3/4x7-1/2

B B121 Letter to William Bache, London;

Philadelphia, A.L.S. 2p. and add.: "Care of William Franklin." Enc. wanting. Friendly letter. Previously cataloged as B B121.2 no.7

Markoe, Fr

Aug. 9, 1794

9-1/2x8

B B121 Letter to William Bache, London;

Philadelphia, A.L.S. 1p. and add.: "Care of William Franklin." Friendly letter. Previously cataloged as B B121.2 no.8

Papers

Franklin, William, 1731-1813	Aug. 23, 1794	7 1/4" x 8 3/4"
B B121 Letter to Mrs. Sarah Bache;		
London, A.L.S. 3p. and add. Has introduced William to Dr. Johnson and others; hopes to make him acquainted with Dr. Ingenhous. Glad to hear of their escape from the dreadful disorder at Philadelphia.		

Bache, Sarah Franklin, 1743-1808	Sept. 20, 1794	
Letter to William Bache		
A.L.S. 3p. and add. Family news; yellow fever. With sketch of woman		

Bache, William, 1773-1818	Sept. 8, 1795	7 1/2" x 9"
B B121 Letter to Richard Bache;		
A.L.S. 1p. and add. Family.		

Hosack, Mrs. Mary Eddy	Aug. 4, 1796	10x8
B B121 Letter to [Mrs.] Catharine Wistar [Bache], Philadelphia;		
New York, A.L.S.with initials. 3p.and add.,end. Friendly letter. Previously cataloged as B B121.2 no.9		

Hosack, Mrs. Mary Eddy	Nov. 21, 1796	10x8
B B121 Letter to [Mrs.] Catharine Wistar [Bache], New York;		
Philadelphia, A.L.S.with initials. 2p.and add.,end. Friendly letter. Previously cataloged as B B121.2 no.10		

Bache, Richard, 1737-1811	May 7, 1798	6 1/2" x 8"
B B121 Letter to Dr. [William] Bache;		
Settle, A.L.S. 1p. Encloses the "conclusion of your grandfather's instructions to me, on his going to France in...1776" for Mr. Niemcewicz (?).		

Gahn, Henry	May 30, 1798	10x8
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Papers

B B121 Letter to William Bache,
Philadelphia;

New York, A.L.S. 3p.and add. Friendly letter. Previously cataloged as B B121.2 no. 11

Bache, Richard, 1784-1848

April 2, 1799

6 1/2" x 8"

B B121 Letter to Mrs. S[arah] Bache;

Burlington, A.L.S. 2p. and add. Family.

Ryerss (?), H

July 12, 1799

B B121 Letter to Mrs. Catherine Bache;

New York, A.L.S. 3p. and add.

Cooper, Hannah

April 21, 1800

B B121 Letter to Mrs. [Catherine] Bache;

(?). Fragment of A.L.S. portion of p. and add.

Bache, Richard, 1737-1811

May 5, 1801

7 1/2" x 9"

B B121 Letter to Mrs. [Sarah] Bache;

Settle, A.L.S. 3p. and add. Family.

Trist, Mrs. Mary Brown

Jan. 28, 1803

9x7-1/2

B B121 Letter to Mrs. [Catharine Wistar]

Bache,

Philadelphia; Pen Park, A.L.S. 3p.and add. Friendly letter. Previously cataloged as B B121.2 no.16

**Randolph, Thomas M. (Thomas Mann),
1768-1828**

Oct. 29, 1805

8" x 10"

B B121 Letter to W[illia]m Bache;

Monticello, A.L.S. 3p. and add. Legal matters.

Bache, Sarah Franklin, 1743-1808

Aug. 16, 1807

8" x 10"

B B121 Letter to Catharine [Bache];

Settle, A.L.S. 1p. Family.

Papers

Bache, Richard, 1737-1811	Aug. 22, 1807	6 1/2" x 8 1/4"
B B121 Letter to Sally Bache;		
Settle, A.L.S. 2p. and add. Family.		
Bache, Richard, 1737-1811	Dec. 2, 1807	13x8
B B121.3 no.1 Letter of administration for Benjamin Franklin's estate;		
Printed D.filled in in ms.S.: Rich[ard] Bache, W[illiam] Bache and Rich[ard] Bache, Jr. Witnessed: J.Wampole. 2p., end. (see Bache family papers)		
Wister, E H	Aug. 15, 1808	6 1/2" x 8 1/2"
B B121 Letter to [] Wister;		
Cotness, A.L.S. 2p. and add. Mutilated		
Bache, Richard, 1737-1811	Jan. 2, 1810	15 1/2" x 10"
B B121.w Will;		
Settle, Pa. A.D. 7p. and end. Mutilated, signature cut away. Att: Aug. 2, 1811. Mentions Dr. Benjamin Franklin. Deposited by the Register of Wills Office, Phila; Dec. 10,1954 - restricted, cf. terms of use, Legal folder. See Bound Volume, Floor E. ---- Photostat of copy of D. 9p. Presented by E.M. Riley, Jan.1951.		
Other Descriptive Information		
Not found 5/2011		
Bache, William, 1773-1818	Aug. 26, 1811	7x8
B B121.3 no.2. Renunciation of the administration of the estate of Benjamin Franklin;		
Philadelphia, D.S.: W.Bache Louis Bache and Rich[ard] Bache. 1p.and end. Register: Samuel Bryan. (see Bache family papers)		
Sergeant, Thomas, 1782-1860	Aug. 27, 1811	12-1/2x7-3/4
B B121.3 no.3 Letter of administration for Benjamin Franklin's estate;		

Papers

Printed D.filled in in ms.S.: T.Sergeant, Louis Bache and Rich[ard] Bache. Witnessed: Sam.Bryan.
2p.,end. (see Bache family papers.)

Hosack, Mrs. Mary Eddy May 15, 1812 10x8
B B121 Letter to Mrs. [Catharine Wistar]
Bache, Philadelphia;
New York, A.L.S. 1p.and add.,end. Friendly letter. Previously cataloged as B B121.2 no.12

Wistar, Thomas July 11, 1813 8" x 10"
B B121 Letter to Catherine Bache;
A.L.S. 1p. and add.

Wistar, Bartholomew, 1790-1841 Oct. 12, 1814 7 3/4" x 9
B B121 Letter to Catharine Bache;
3/4"
Phila., A.L.S. 2p. and add.

Wistar, Caspar, 1761-1818 July 1, 1816
B B121 Letter to Catharine Bache;
Roxborough, A.L.S. 2p. and add.

Trist, E Oct. 17, 1816 9-3/4x7-3/4
B B121 Letter to Mrs. Catharine [Wistar]
Bache, Princeton;
Previously cataloged as B B121.2 no.13

Hosack, Mrs. Mary Eddy Jan. 23, 1817 9-3/4x7-3/4
B B121 Letter to Mrs. Catharine [Wistar]
Bache, Princeton;
New York, A.L.S. 3p.and add., end. Friendly letter. Concerning G. Morris' death and his wife.
Previously cataloged as B B121.2 no.14

Wistar, Elizabeth. March 3, 1818
Letter to --

Papers

A.L.S. 2p.

Jones, M

Sept. 13, 1820

9-3/4x7-3/4

B B121 Letter to Mrs. [Catharine Wistar]

Bache, Philadelphia;

New Orleans, A.L.S. 2p.and add. Seal Friendly letter. Previously cataloged as B B121.2 no.15

James, Thomas C., (Thomas Chalkley), Jan. 8, 1821

1766-1835

Letter to William Meredith;

A.L.S. 2p.and add.,end. Concerning estate of Mrs. Sarah Bache: has been asked to be Guardian to Catharine Bache.

Morris, Mathias

Oct. 16, 1821

Letter to W[illiam] Meredith;

Doylestown, A.L.S. 1p. Concerning Mrs. Bache's Estate.

Mallory, G

Nov. 26, 1830

8" x 12 3/4"

B B121 Letter to John Wister;

wilkes Barre, A.L.S. 1p. and add.

Bache, William

Aug. 20, 1834

Letter to C. G. McChesney, Hights Town,

New Jersey;

Wellsboro Tioga, A.L.S. 1p.and add. Thanks for communication, and is thankful for his long healthy life.

Marcy, William L. (William Learned)

Nov. 3, 1852

4 3/4" x 7

1786-1857

1/4"

B B121 Letter to H.G. Upham;

Albany, A.L.S. 2p.

Tho[ma]s Hewson Bache to John Bigelow 1867 Nov 18

Papers

Other Descriptive Information

Photocopy

 Tho[ma]s Hewson Bache to John Bigelow 1868 April 27
Other Descriptive Information

Photocopy

 Republican National Convention Delegate's Ticket. June 16, 1896

1 ticket for St. Louis convention.

Bache, Elizabeth Franklin, 1777-1820	Undated	7 1/4" x 8
B B121 Letter to William Bache;		3/4"

Tuesday morning. A.L.S. 1p. and add.

Vaughan, Sarah	Undated	8" x 8 1/4"
B B121 Letter to Mrs. [Sarah ?] Bache;		

n.d. A.L.S. 2p. and add.

W., H S	Undated	
B B121 Letter to Catherine Wistar;		

n.d. A.L.S. 2p. and add.

Series Two: Material related to Benjamin Franklin...

Series Two: Material related to Benjamin Franklin Bache

Benjamin Franklin Bache (1801-1881); Primarily related to Benjamin Franklin Bache's time as surgeon of the Navy before and during the Civil War.

Processing Information

Index for this series is incomplete.

La Sociedad Medica de Emulacion de Barcelona. Oct. 28, 1842

Certificate of merit to Benjamin F. Bache.

Printed D. Mss filled in. 1p.

Agreement made between Bache of the City of New York and Charles G. Taylor, etc. June, 1856

A.D. 1p.

U.S. Navy Sept. 9, 1865

Letter to B.F. Bache

A.L.S.: Chief of Bureau; granting leave for Bache.

Bache, Benjamin Franklin, 1801-1881 April 27, 1868

Letter to Thomas Hart, Jr.

A.L.S. 3p.

Porter, Daniel D. June 14, 1868

Letter to Benjamin F. Bache

A.L.S. 5p.

U.S. Navy Aug. 29, 1870

General order, no. 159

T.D. order an "Act to further promote teh efficiency of the Navy"

Other Descriptive Information

Series Two: Material related to Benjamin Franklin...

Not found 5/2011

US Secretary of the Navy to BF Bache 1870 Sept 13

US Navy General order, no. 163 1871 Sept 1

U.S. Navy Sept. 18, 1871

Letter to B.F. Bache

A.L.S.: Acting Secretary Navy; "In accordance with General Order No 163, you will regard yourself detached from duty in charge of the Naval Laboratory at New York on the 1st October next, proceed to your home and wait orders."

U.S. Navy Feb. 1, 1873

Letter to B.F. Bache

1p. Commissions Bache Medical Director.

Invitation to Miss Jeannie L. Bache Oct. 27, 1876

Printed. 1p. Mss filled in. Invitation to the International Exhibition of 1876 at Fairmount Park, Philadelphia.

Ticket of admission to International Nov. 10, 1876
Exhibition closing Ceremonies

Bache, Benjamin Franklin, 1801-1881 June 3, 1879

Will

A.D. 3p.

State of New York. Surrogates Court. Dec. 23, 1881

County of Kings.

Certification as to the will of B.F. Bache

Printed D. Mss. filled in. 1p.

Duane, Russell, 1866- Pepper, George May 28, 1890
Wharton, 1867-1961

Series Two: Material related to Benjamin Franklin...

Outline statement of counsel in regard to the
Franklin trusts

Gillespie, E. D. (Elizabeth Duane), b. 1821 Irwin, Sophia A. May 28, 1890

1821 Irwin, Sophia A.

Concerning a proposed suit to recover funds
from Benjamin Franklin's estate

A.D. 5p.

Biddle, A. Sydney June 7, 1890

Letter to William S. Gould

1p. conerning B. Franklin's will.

Duane, Russell, 1866- June 7, 1890

Letter to William S. Gould

A.L.S. 2p. concerns Franklin's will.

Letter to "Dear Aunt Jeannie" [L. Bache] Dec. 7, 1923

T.L. 2p. signed "Ed"

Bache, Benjamin Franklin, 1801-1881 Undated

Extracts from my mother's will
